

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A computer system in a vehicle, comprising:
at least two computers that perform different tasks,
wherein a distribution of the tasks among the at least two computers takes place according to a significance of functions for a driving of the vehicle, the functions including driving-related functions that are implemented in a first computer of the at least two computers, and non-driving-related functions that are implemented in a second computer of the at least two computers, and at least one driving-related function is temporarily distributed to the second computer for execution.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein the driving-related functions are vehicle-specific functions.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
the driving-related functions contain specific information connected with at least one of:
one of an operation, a navigation, and a driving of the vehicle, and
a warning and an orientation of a driver, and
the driving-related functions form a driver-related Human Machine Interface (“HMI”) and a driver information system.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein the non-driving-related functions are entertainment-specific functions.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
the driving-related functions include at least one of the following functions:
navigation systems,
one of a Human Machine Interface (“HMI”) logic system and an HMI manager that one of controls and evaluates a display and an operation of the vehicle,

one of speech recognition software and speech synthesis software, a program for outputting one of driving instructions and driver warnings, and a representation of two-dimensional maps for orientation, and the non-driving-related functions include at least one of the following functions:

- an Internet browser,
- a service download,
- a representation of three-dimensional graphics,
- an application for entertaining passengers,
- a game,
- a video reproduction system,
- a digital video broadcast system, and
- a connection of connectable portable devices including one of a laptop and a PDA.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein the second computer is a powerful multimedia computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:
at least one interface provided between the first computer and the second computer.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein the first computer is connected to an internal vehicle bus.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein a computing-intensive function of a driving-related part is computed in a non-driving-related part.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
the first computer gives computing-intensive tasks to the second computer, and the first computer executes the computer-intensive tasks if the second computer is not available.

22. (Previously Presented) A multimedia computer for use in a motor vehicle, wherein the multimedia computer implements entertainment functionalities and is connected via at least one interface with an additional computer that implements driving functions.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer system in a vehicle, comprising:

a first processing unit in the vehicle, configured to perform critical driving-related functions, wherein the first processing unit is substantially closed from end-user modifications;

a second processing unit in the vehicle, configured to perform an auxiliary set of functions, wherein the second processing unit is configurable by the end-user;

a data transfer connection between the first and second processing units;

the system configured to distribute critical driving-related functions to the first processing unit and the second processing unit, based at least in part on an availability of the respective processing units and on how processing-intensive the functions are; and

the system configured to distribute the auxiliary set of functions exclusively to the second processing unit.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the system is configured to modify the auxiliary second set of functions based on user input, and wherein the system is configured to restrict modification of the driving-related functions.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the second processing unit is a receiving subsystem with an interface configured to interface with a plurality of equipment added to the system via the interface.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the auxiliary second set of functions include enhancements of the driving-related functions.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein one enhancement includes interactive graphical maps, and wherein one driving-related function, associated with the one enhancement, includes basic navigation data.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the first processing unit is configured as a master processing unit and the second processing unit is configured as a slave processing unit.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the second processing unit is configured with more processing power than the first processing unit.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the second processing unit is optimized for multimedia processing.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the system is configured to modify the auxiliary second set of functions based on user input, wherein the system is configured to restrict modification of the driving-related functions, wherein the second processing unit is a receiving subsystem with an interface configured to interface with a plurality of equipment added to the system via the interface, wherein the auxiliary second set of functions include enhancements of the driving-related functions.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein one enhancement includes interactive graphical maps, and wherein one driving-related function, associated with the one enhancement, includes basic navigation data, wherein the first processing unit is configured as a master processing unit and the second processing unit is configured as a slave processing unit, wherein the second processing unit is configured with more processing power than the first processing unit, and wherein the second processing unit is optimized for multimedia processing.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer system in a vehicle, comprising:

a graphics processor; and

at least two computers that perform different tasks, a distribution of the tasks among the at least two computers being performed in accordance with a significance of functions for guidance of the vehicle, wherein a first one of the computers includes functions related to driving, wherein a second one of the computers includes functions not related to driving, wherein the computers are connected to the graphics processor, wherein the computers

communicate with each other via one predefined interface, and wherein a function related to driving primarily performed by the first one of the computers is temporarily distributed to the second one of the computers for execution.

34. (Previously Presented) A computer system in a vehicle, comprising:

a graphics processor; and
at least two computers that perform different tasks, a distribution of the tasks among the at least two computers being performed in accordance with a significance of functions for guidance of the vehicle,

wherein a first one of the computers includes functions related to driving, wherein a second one of the computers includes functions not related to driving,

wherein the computers are connected to the graphics processor, wherein the computers communicate with each other via one predefined interface,

wherein a critical function related to driving is routed to the second one of the computers via the one predefined interface, and

wherein the first one of the computers is a closed system, the second one of the computers is an open system, and the open system permits a user to make changes to software or to a configuration.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer system in a vehicle, comprising:

at least two computers that perform different tasks, a distribution of the tasks among the at least two computers being performed in accordance with a significance of functions for guidance of the vehicle;

a first graphics processor; and

a second graphics processor;

wherein a first one of the at least two computers includes functions related to driving,

wherein a second one of the at least two computers includes functions not related to driving,

wherein the at least two computers communicate with each other via one predefined interface,

wherein the first one of the at least two computers is connected to the first graphics processor,

wherein the second one of the at least two computers is connected to the second graphics processor,

wherein the graphics processors communicate with each other via the one predefined interface, and

wherein the first one of the at least two computers is a closed system, the second one of the at least two computers is an open system, and the open system permits a user to make changes to a software program or to a configuration.